

In re Appl. No. 09/807,190

cellulose.

~~Page 4, please amend the first paragraph as follows:~~

B1 Patients on dialysis who need be administered the phosphate-binding polymers as remedies for hyperphosphatemia are often required to take in limited amounts of water. It is therefore required to develop phosphate-binding polymer preparations in dosage forms that can be taken with small amounts of water. One of the promising dosage forms is tablets which can be reduced in size by compression and coated tablets are preferred since they will not disintegrate in the mouth and can be ingested smoothly. However, when processed into tablets by compressing, a phosphate-binding polymer alone gives only poor tablet hardness and thus cannot be processed as such into a tablet preparation. Further, due to the high hygroscopicity and swelling properties of the phosphate binding polymer, it is also impossible to produce a phosphate-binding polymer preparation by a process comprising wet granulation using water or a binder solution containing alcohols, etc. and subsequent drying.

~~Page 7, please amend the first paragraph as follows:~~

B2 Since the phosphate-binding polymer of the invention is a crosslinked polymer, m in the above formula is a large integer that represents the network structure of the